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APUSH

Period One

DBQ: To what extent was the late 19th century and early tewenthy century United States expansionism a continuation of past United States expansionism and to what exten was it a depature?

As the United States slowly approached the coming of the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the nations expanisionsm progressed steadily to a large extent following the same ideals and goals of acquiring new lands for America, however expanisonim departed from its past ways in the sense that the act had become a means of better other nations as opposed to bettering America itself. Toward the turn of the century it had become clear that America was beginign to drift away from past expanionsit ideals such as the idea of Manifest Destiny, and toward new expanisonism tactics that served to advance the countries of the world globally through civilized and “constitutional” interventions in nations such as the Phillippines. America to a certain extent was altering its expanionist tactics and depating from those of the past, but not entierily.

Expansionsim in the late 19th Century America was most notably shaped around the idea of Manifest Destiny- or the United States God given right to expand its nation/territories not only west across the North American Continent but toward the Pacific under the arguemnet that it was simply destine to happen. American during the late 19th century expanded its borders as a means of self production and better the nation as a whole. The United States looked to expand its borders by any means necessary because “ the growing production of the country demands it”, the “ increasing volume of the public sentiment demands it”, the advancements and the need to satisfy one nation and one nation only came first- American expand at one cost and that was the cost of providing for soley its people before all else ( document C). Although it is argueable that America during the turn of the early 20th century looked to used expansionism as a means of providing better for other countires not alone itself, there are aspects of early expansionsm that carried on through the new century. American intervention in the Phillippines suggest otherwise, Senator Albert J. Beveridge stating that it is the American “duty” to “not retreat from” the Phillippines, are land that is marked as “ ours forever” ( document E). As the new century approached, old expansionisim began to slowly disinegrate, although aspects of expanding for the American benefit still exsisted.

As the early 20th century was set into motion, American expansionism took a realtively good turn for the better. Expansionsm no longer was based soley on the means of bettering American alone, but began to focus on the betterment of other nations through the power of America and expansionsm. United States of America President Theodore Roosevelt implemented the idea that “land hunger” was not in the best interest of the United States but rather the countires only desire was to “ see the neigboring countires stable, orderly, and properous” ( document F). In 1904, the President of the United States made such statements of reassurance to the many nations of the world at threat to U.S. interference, but at a good cost. United States shifted its focus arguably permantely from soley American interest to bettering other nations that shown possibly destrcution , those whom were deemed stable “ fear no interference from the United States” ( document E). American Interference from the Phillipeens forward does infact reflect Roosevelts statements: Interference in communist, totalitarian and dictatorship run goverrnments such as Cuba, Iraq, Afganhistan, Liba, Korea, ect.. Expansionism in America not only makes progess toward benefiting others but doing so in a more effcient, civilized, and arguable constitutional manner “ acquiring territory by treay” in order to “govern such territory” and to “ prescribe upon what terms to United States will receive its inhabitants” ( document H).

The United States of America